



## Trump welcomes Netanyahu to Mar-a-Lago, mending his relationship with a key political ally

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER,  
JILL COLVIN and MICHELLE PRICE

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A beaming Donald Trump welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to their first face-to-face meeting in nearly four years on Friday, patching up a political alliance important to both men that had broken down when the Israeli leader offended Trump by being one of the first to congratulate Joe Biden on his 2020 presidential victory.

Asked by journalists if his U.S. trip was making progress toward a Gaza cease-fire at home, Netanyahu said, "I hope so," and added that Israel was eager for an agreement.

Netanyahu handed Trump a framed photo that the Israeli leader said showed a child who has been held hostage by Hamas-led militants since the first hours of the war.



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks as he meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago, Friday, July 26, 2024, in Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

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# Trump welcomes Netanyahu to Mar-a-Lago, mending his relationship with a key political ally

Continued from Front

"We'll get it taken care of," Trump assured him. Trump's campaign said he pledged in the meeting to "make every effort to bring peace to the Middle East" and combat antisemitism on college campuses if American voters elect him to the presidency in November.

Trump was waiting for Netanyahu on the stone steps outside his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, where he warmly clasped the hands of the Israeli leader. Both men have a strong interest in resuming their relationship, including for the political support and luster their alliance brings.

"We've always had a great relationship," Trump insisted before journalists. Asked as the two sat down in a muraled room for talks if Netanyahu's trip to Mar-a-Lago was repairing their bond, Trump responded, "It was never bad."

As president, Donald Trump went well beyond his predecessors in fulfilling Netanyahu's top wishes from the United States. Yet by the time Trump left the White House, relations had soured, with Trump publicly criticizing Netanyahu as disloyal despite the other man's efforts to mend ties. For both men, Friday's meeting was aimed at highlighting for their home audiences in the United States and Israel their depiction of themselves as strong leaders who have gotten big things done on the world stage, and can again.

Netanyahu's Florida trip followed a fiery address to a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday that defended his far-right government's conduct of the war and condemned American protesters galvanized by the killing of more than 39,000 Palestinians in the conflict.

On Thursday, Netanyahu had met in Washington with Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. Both pressed the Israeli leader to work quickly to wrap up a



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his Mar-a-Lago estate, Friday, July 26, 2024, in Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

deal to bring a cease-fire and release hostages.

Netanyahu is increasingly accused at home of prolonging the war to stave off the collapse of his government when the conflict ends.

For Trump, now the Republican presidential nominee, the meeting was a chance to be cast as an ally and statesman, as well as to sharpen efforts by Republicans to portray themselves as the party most loyal to Israel.

Divisions among Americans over U.S. support for Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza have opened cracks in years of strong bipartisan backing for Israel, the biggest recipient of U.S. aid.

For Netanyahu, repairing relations with Trump is imperative given the prospect that Trump may once again become president of the United States, which is Israel's vital arms supplier and protector.

One political gamble for Netanyahu is whether he could get more of the terms he wants in any deal on a Gaza cease-fire and hostage release, and in his much hoped-for closing of a normalization deal with Saudi Arabia, if he waits out

the Biden administration in hopes that Trump wins.

"Benjamin Netanyahu has spent much of his career in the last two decades in tethering himself to the Republican Party," said Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. diplomat for Arab-Israeli negotiations, now a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

For the next six months, that means "mending ties with an irascible, angry president," Miller said, meaning Trump.

Trump broke off with Netanyahu in early 2021. That was after the Israeli prime minister became one of the first world leaders to congratulate Biden for his presidential election victory, disregarding Trump's false claim he had won.

"Bibi could have stayed quiet," Trump said in an interview with an Israel newspaper back then. "He made a terrible mistake."

Netanyahu and Trump last met at a September 2020 White House signing ceremony for the signature diplomatic achievement of both men's political careers. It was an accord brokered by the Trump administration in which the United

Arab Emirates and Bahrain agreed to establish normal diplomatic relations with Israel.

For Israel, it amounted to the two countries formally recognizing it for the first time. It was a major step in what Israel hopes will be an easing of tensions and a broadening of economic ties with its Arab neighbors. In public postings and statements after his break with Netanyahu, Trump portrayed himself as having stuck his neck out for Israel as president, and Netanyahu paying him back with disloyalty.

He also has criticized Netanyahu on other points, faulting him as "not prepared" for the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks that started the war in Gaza, for example.

In his high-profile speech to Congress on Wednesday, Netanyahu gave recognition to Biden, who has kept up military and diplomatic support for Israel's offensive in Gaza despite opposition from within his Democratic Party.

But Netanyahu poured praise on Trump, calling the regional accords Trump helped broker historic and thanking him "for all the things he did for Israel."

Netanyahu listed actions by the Trump administration long-sought by Israeli governments the U.S. officially saying Israel had sovereignty over the Golan Heights, captured from Syria during a 1967 war; a tougher U.S. policy toward Iran; and Trump declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel, breaking with long-standing U.S. policy that Jerusalem's status should be decided in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"I appreciated that," Trump told "Fox & Friends" on Thursday, referring to Netanyahu's praise.

He didn't quiet his criticism, however, of Israel's conduct of the war, which has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians.

"I want him to finish up and get it done quickly. You gotta get it done quickly, because they are getting decimated with his publicity," Trump said in Thursday's interview.

"Israel is not very good at public relations, I'll tell you that," he added.

Trump has repeatedly urged that Israel with U.S. support "finish the job" in Gaza and destroy Hamas, but he hasn't elaborated on how. □



## U.S. arrests 2 leaders of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel: 'El Mayo' Zambada and son of 'El Chapo'

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, MARÍA VERZA and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, a longtime leader of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, and Joaquín Guzmán López, a son of another infamous cartel leader, were arrested by U.S. authorities in Texas on Thursday, the U.S. Justice Department said.

A leader of the powerful Sinaloa cartel for decades alongside Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, Zambada is one of the most notorious drug traffickers in the world and known for running the cartel's smuggling operations while keeping a lower profile.

A Mexican federal official told The Associated Press that Zambada and Guzmán López arrived in the United States on a private plane and turned themselves in to authorities. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter. The U.S. government had offered a reward of up to \$15 million for information leading to the capture of



This combo of images provided by the U.S. Department of State show Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, a historic leader of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, left, and Joaquín Guzmán López, a son of another infamous cartel leader, after they were arrested by U.S. authorities in Texas, the U.S. Justice Department said Thursday, July 25, 2024.

Associated Press

Zambada, who eluded authorities for decades. Zambada and Guzmán López oversaw the trafficking of "tens of thousands of pounds of drugs into the United States, along with related violence," FBI Director Christopher Wray said, adding that now they

will "face justice in the United States." "Fentanyl is the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, and the Justice Department will not rest until every single cartel leader, member, and associate responsible for poisoning our communities is held ac-

countable," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. Mexican authorities didn't immediately comment on the arrests. U.S. officials have been seeking Zambada's capture for years, and he has been charged in a num-

ber of U.S. cases. He was charged in February in the Eastern District of New York with conspiring to manufacture and distribute the synthetic opioid. Prosecutors said he was continuing to lead the Sinaloa cartel, "one of the most violent and powerful drug trafficking organizations in the world."

Zambada, one of the longest-surviving capos in Mexico, was considered the cartel's strategist, more involved in day-to-day operations than his flashier and better-known boss, "El Chapo" Guzmán, who was sentenced to life in prison in the U.S. in 2019 and is the father of Guzmán López.

Zambada is an old-fashioned capo in an era of younger kingpins known for their flamboyant lifestyles of club-hopping and brutal tactics of beheading, dismembering and even skinning their rivals. While Zambada has fought those who challenged him, he is known for concentrating on the business side of trafficking and avoiding gruesome cartel violence that would draw attention. □

## Nevada election officials certify enough signatures for Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to appear on ballot

By GABE STERN

Associated Press/Report for America

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Nevada election officials verified enough signatures for Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s campaign to appear on the Nevada ballot, the state's top election official confirmed Friday, likely bringing his insurgent quest to shake up Republican and Democratic dominance of U.S. elections to a crucial battleground state.

Kennedy has gained traction with a famous name and a loyal base, and he has the potential to do better than any independent presidential candidate in decades. Strategists from both major parties fear he could tip the election

against them, though a big blow to his campaign came when he did not qualify for the CNN debate in June. Instead, he held a separate event where he responded in real time to the questions that were posed to President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump.

There still could be room for legal challenges. Last month, state and national Democrats filed a lawsuit challenging Kennedy Jr.'s standing on the Nevada ballot as an independent because of his affiliation with political parties in other states. The verified signatures came in a petition that Kennedy Jr.'s campaign scrambled to submit after the Nevada Secretary

of State Cisco Aguilar's office clarified guidance that would likely nullify his original petition because he did not list a running mate. The campaign had filed a

lawsuit against Aguilar's office over the state requirement that independent candidates must name their running mate by the time they start gathering

signatures. The campaign said that they received approval in January from Aguilar's office allowing them to collect the required number of signatures for a petition that did not list his vice presidential selection. Aguilar's office had said in a statement that they sent correct guidance to all independent candidates that had filed petitions for ballot access "well in advance of the deadline to submit signatures."

Kennedy Jr. picked California lawyer and philanthropist Nicole Shanahan as his running mate in late March. State and county election officials verified over 22,000 signatures on the new petition, well over the requirement of just over 10,000. □



Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. delivers a keynote speech at the FreedomFest Vegas event Friday, July 12, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press



# Vegas man charged with threats to officials including judge, prosecutor in Trump hush money trial

By **KEN RITTER** and **MICHAEL R. SISAK**

**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A Las Vegas man has been charged with threatening to injure and kill government officials in three states and the District of Columbia, including the New York judge and prosecutor who handled former President Donald Trump's criminal hush money trial, according to federal officials and court records.

Spencer Gear, 32, was being held Friday in federal custody in Nevada following his arrest and not guilty plea Tuesday to 22 felony charges of threatening a federal official and transmitting a communication containing a threat to injure. Gear's indictment had been filed under seal July 16.

Rebecca Levy, a federal public defender representing Gear in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas, did not respond Friday to messages seeking comment.

The indictment lists 11 alleged victims by initials, in-



Judge Juan M. Merchan poses in his chambers in New York, March 14, 2024.

**Associated Press**

cluding two in a phone call from Nevada to New York that "threatened to kill A.B. and J.M.," referring to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and New York Judge Juan M. Merchan.

Bragg's office declined to comment. A message was left for a spokesperson for

New York's state court system.

In her order remanding Gear to federal custody ahead of trial, U.S. Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler cited "the number of calls at play in this case," with victims also in New Jersey and Montana.

The judge focused on a recording of a June 3 telephone message "which was directed at a judge and a district attorney" and called the language Gear allegedly used "of great concern to the court."

That date was the Monday after a jury found Trump

guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex. Trump's lawyers have since asked Merchan to overturn the verdict, citing the Supreme Court's recent immunity decision.

The judge said he'll rule in September.

Weksler noted that Gear had little prior criminal history, noting two driving-related offenses, but had been charged by federal authorities with resisting arrest last week.

"The defendant does not seem to have respect for the judicial system and for judges," the magistrate judge said. Trial is scheduled Sept. 24.

Bragg's office, which prosecuted Trump's hush money criminal case, reported at least 56 "actionable threats" directed against Bragg, his family and staff, and nearly 500 threatening emails and phone calls since April. □

# U.S. coastal communities get \$575M to guard against floods, other climate disasters

By **WAYNE PARRY**

**Associated Press**

**PERTH AMBOY, N.J. (AP)** —

The federal government is giving more than a half-billion dollars to coastal communities to help them use nature-based preventative measures to address climate-related flooding and other disasters.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Friday announced it is allocating \$575 million to 19 resiliency projects in several states, with a particular emphasis on Native American, urban and traditionally underserved communities that experience repeated floods, wildfires and other weather-related disasters.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said in a statement that the effort was intended to

"help make sure America's coastal communities are more resilient to the effects of climate change."

The projects include more than \$72 million for so-called "living shorelines" in

New Jersey, using native plants, oyster reefs and other natural materials to restore and protect waterfronts. There also is money to replace sidewalks with permeable pavement, to

top buildings with plants to help absorb heat, and to establish parks in flood-prone areas that can absorb floodwaters.

Other work includes climate risk assessments for over 100 Native communities in Alaska, expanding statewide tribal adaptation technical assistance, and sharing local knowledge.

It also includes using nature-based solutions to protect California's Monterey Bay, establish native forests to reduce wildfire risk in Hawaii, and open spaces on Rhode Island's Aquidneck Island.

Officials from NOAA and the U.S. Commerce Department held a press conference Friday in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, to describe some of the work planned for that state, which was pummeled by

Superstorm Sandy. The gathering was held on a bayfront walkway that was rebuilt using government recovery funds after the 2012 storm.

"Climate change is real, it is here, and it is now," said Shawn LaTourette, New Jersey's environmental protection commissioner. "We experience routine flooding that pushes families out of their homes on such a frequent basis. That illustrates the need for federal action and investment."

The money is part of NOAA's Climate Resilience Regional Challenge funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Environmental groups have long favored natural coastal protection over so-called "hard engineering" solutions such as sea walls and bulkheads. □



A section of the waterfront of Perth Amboy, N.J., that could get a so-called "resiliency park" is shown on Friday, July 26, 2024.

**Associated Press**



# Arsonists attack French high-speed rail system hours before opening ceremonies of the Paris Olympics

By THOMAS ADAMSON and JEFFREY SCHAEFFER  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — Arsonists attacked France's high-speed rail network early Friday, setting fires that paralyzed train travel to Paris for some 800,000 people across Europe, including athletes heading to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Targeting remote locations far from the capital, the apparently coordinated attacks sought to cut off rail routes into the city from all directions.

The fires were predominantly set in pipes containing critical signaling cables for the system known as the TGV.

There were no reports of injuries.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said the damage would not affect the ceremony in which 7,000 Olympic athletes were due to sail down the Seine past iconic Parisian monuments such as Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum and the Musee d'Orsay.

Fires were reported before dawn near the tracks on



Soldiers patrol outside Gare du Nord train station at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Friday, July 26, 2024, in Paris, France.

three separate lines, causing widespread disruptions. Another arson attempt, in the south in Vergigny, was thwarted by rail agents who scared off several suspects.

French authorities did not publicly comment on who might have carried out the attacks or why; none of them said the sabotage

was directly related to the Games.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said intelligence services were mobilized to find the arsonists, whose attacks he described as "premeditated" and "calculated."

The evidence indicates "a desire to seriously harm" the French people, said the CEO of national rail-

way company SNCF, Jean-Pierre Farandou, who estimated the number of customers affected at 800,000. "The places were especially chosen to have the most serious impact, since each fire cut off two lines."

The rail company said in a statement Friday evening that it would ensure transport for all Olympic delega-

tions, without elaborating. It stepped up ground and air surveillance, including with 50 drones.

Prosecutors in Paris opened a national investigation, saying the crimes included property damage threatening the nation's "fundamental interests" and could carry prison sentences of up to 20 years.

"Disturbing such a festival of peace with acts of violence can never be accepted and demands the most determined rejection," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in Paris.

Two out of four trains carrying athletes to Paris on the western line were stopped hours before the opening ceremony, an SNCF official said.

Two German athletes who were on a Paris-bound train for the opening ceremony had to turn back in Belgium because of the closures, German news agency dpa reported.

Repairs were being made as police conducted forensic tests. "We have to repair cable by cable, so it's very meticulous work," Farandou said. □

Associated Press

# Mexico's president downplays cartel violence that drove nearly 600 Mexicans into Guatemala

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador thanked Guatemala on Friday for helping the nearly 600 Mexicans who have crossed into Guatemala to escape drug cartel violence, but also minimized the violence that drove them there.

In his first comments since the refugees fled earlier this week, the president went on to add that Mexico is a large country, and like many other parts of the world, "there are conflicts." "Our (political) adversaries want to see that our government is unstable, that violence dominates and our country is being destroyed," he said. The National Guard would secure the area and the situation

would soon be resolved, he said.

A Guatemalan government report said some 580 people had fled violence in the Mexican state of Chiapas, including men, women, children and elderly. Families who crossed to the Guatemalan municipality of Cuilco said shootouts had forced them to flee and the cartels had made locals work checkpoints and used them as human shields while they battled their rivals.

Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo said Wednesday his administration would coordinate the humanitarian response though there was little sign of it yet. Arévalo said his administration was working

with the local governments near the border to attend to the Mexicans, "who are escaping conflict between groups that is taking place on the Mexican side."

Still, that was more than came from the Mexican side, where authorities did not respond to requests for comment about the situation until Friday.

Two of Mexico's most powerful cartels from the northern states of Sinaloa and Jalisco have been battling for control of smuggling routes in the area of southern Mexico for more than a year causing multiple displacements.

In June, some 5,000 people were displaced by violence in another part of Chiapas after armed men set hous-

es on fire in the town of Tila. In September last year, Mexico's president conceded the cartels had cut off electrical power in some Chiapas towns near

the border with Guatemala, and forbade government workers from coming into the largely rural area to fix power lines. □



President Andrés Manuel López Obrador speaks during a flag ceremony at the National Palace in Mexico City, Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

Associated Press



# U.K. drops plans to challenge ICC arrest warrant request against Benjamin Netanyahu

By **DANICA KIRKA** and **BRIAN MELLEY**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office said Friday that the U.K. will not intervene in the International Criminal Court's request for an arrest warrant against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The announcement is reversal of plans announced by former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who was ousted earlier this month when Starmer's Labour Party swept Conservatives from office in a landslide.

"This was a proposal by the previous government which was not submitted before the election, and which I can confirm the government will not be pursuing in line with our long-standing position that this is a matter for the court to decide," a Starmer spokesperson said.

The court's prosecutor, Karim Khan, accused Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and three Hamas leaders Yehya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip



Exterior view of the International Criminal Court, or ICC, in The Hague, Netherlands, on April 30, 2024

**Associated Press**

and Israel.

Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders condemned the move as disgraceful and antisemitic. U.S. President Joe Biden also criticized the prosecutor and supported Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas as did Sunak.

Khan sought warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant in May over Israel's war in

Gaza in a symbolic blow that deepened Israel's isolation over the war in Gaza. Israel is not a member of the court. Even if warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant do not face any immediate risk of prosecution. But the threat of arrest could make it harder for them to travel.

The ICC had set a deadline for Friday for the govern-

ment to file a challenge.

Starmer's decision puts the U.K. at odds with America, though his office on Friday described the decision as based in a strong belief in the separation of powers and the rule of law domestically and internationally. However, the issue is a tricky one for Starmer and his party. Starmer, a former human rights lawyer, has been un-

der pressure from his party to take a tougher stand on the ongoing crisis in Gaza, particularly as the number of dead and injured climbs. London has also been the scene of huge protests decrying Israel's actions intended to root out Hamas militants and has also reported record levels of antisemitic incidents.

Labour lost support and seats they had been expected to win after Starmer initially refused to call for a cease fire shortly after Israel retaliated for the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants. The party is still recovering from the stain of a scandal involving antisemitism allegations against the leadership of his predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn.

Nomi Bar-Yaacov, an associate fellow at London's Chatham House think tank, said that Starmer's position on Israel has been evolving away from that of its close ally, the United States, as the scale of death and destruction in Gaza pressed on. "With no end in sight, I think he's changed his stance," she said "I think he's wary that the UK might be accused of complicity." □

# 95 Libyan nationals arrested in South Africa at suspected secret military training camp

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**  
**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — South African police arrested 95 Libyan nationals in a

raid on a suspected secret military training camp on Friday and authorities said they were investigating whether there were more il-

legal bases in other parts of the country.

The camp was discovered at a farm in White River in the Mpumalanga province, about 360 kilometers (220 miles) northeast of Johannesburg, police said. National police spokesperson Athlenda Mathe said in a post on the social media site X that the Libyans stated they had entered the country on study visas to train as security guards, but police investigations suggest they have received military training.

The Newzroom Afrika TV news channel broadcast pictures of the site of the arrests, showing a military-style camp with large green and khaki tents set

up in a row. Dozens of men were seen lining up as they were arrested.

They were wearing civilian clothing.

Local government official Jackie Macie said investigations were ongoing and the owner of the farm would be questioned. He said authorities received information that there were similar secret camps near two other towns in Mpumalanga province.

The province borders neighboring countries Mozambique and Swaziland and is an area of concern for South African authorities with regards to illegal immigration.

Police and authorities have not said whether the

camps are suspected of being connected to a particular group or conflict.

Macie said investigations would establish if there was a network of camps in South Africa and show "why they are here doing military training in our country."

Police said the men may be linked to crimes reported in communities close to the farm in recent months.

"We have serious cases which have been opened with the police, including cases of rape and armed robberies, which complainants claim were committed by unknown foreigners who seem to be of Asian descent," said police spokesman Donald Mdhuli. □



A camp where 95 Libyan nationals were arrested on suspicion of running an illegal military camp are seen lining up after their arrest on Friday July 26, 2024 in White River, South Africa.

**Associated Press**



## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was



once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design

compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism

#### 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

#### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in

reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

#### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

#### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

#### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

### Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba





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## How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

**How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?**

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals

also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean



floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

**Why north deep, but south shallow?**

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental

island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectively honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three levels of honor are as follows:**  
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years con-

secutively visiting Aruba)

**The honoree was:**  
Emerald Ambassador  
Mr. Marc Goldschmidt from Scottsdale Arizona, United States.  
Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of ID Realty Group bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

**The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:**

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Friendly and on the spot service in the tourist area/ Playa Linda"



• "Aruba has become a part of our family"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Au-

thority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



## 2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY

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## Watch out for Blue Crab Migration near Savaneta

(Oranjestad)—The department of nature & environment in Aruba are urging motorists to watch out for blue crabs crossing the road in Pos Chiquito to make their way to the ocean.

They added a new bright yellow road sign with "Land Crab Crossing" to remind people to be cautious while driving on the highway on Pos Chiquito with blue crabs.



Blue crabs in Aruba are found plenty near the beach areas, especially in Pos Chiquito, because of the amount of mangroves. They are known to dig holes

deep in the beach sand in seek of humidity.

The diet of blue crabs consists of decomposed trees, insects, scorpions and rest of dead animals.

Nesting season for blue crabs is between June & July.

### Why protect blue crabs?

Because they are of high value for the ecology of the mangroves. Conserving the blue crabs is crucial for the preservation of mangroves.

Watch out for crossing blue crabs on the highway near Pos Chiquito & Santo Largo



## Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands"

can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red An-

chor in San Nicolas

- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)

- At the California Light House hill

- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin

- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectively honored with a certificate for her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.



The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or

more consecutively. The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Goodwill Ambassador Mrs. Alma Goldschmidt from Scottsdale Arizona, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of ID Realty Group bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

The top reasons for return-

ing to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Friendly and on the spot service in the tourist area/Playa Linda"
- "Aruba has become a part of our family"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



## Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not

have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves



are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves

may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐



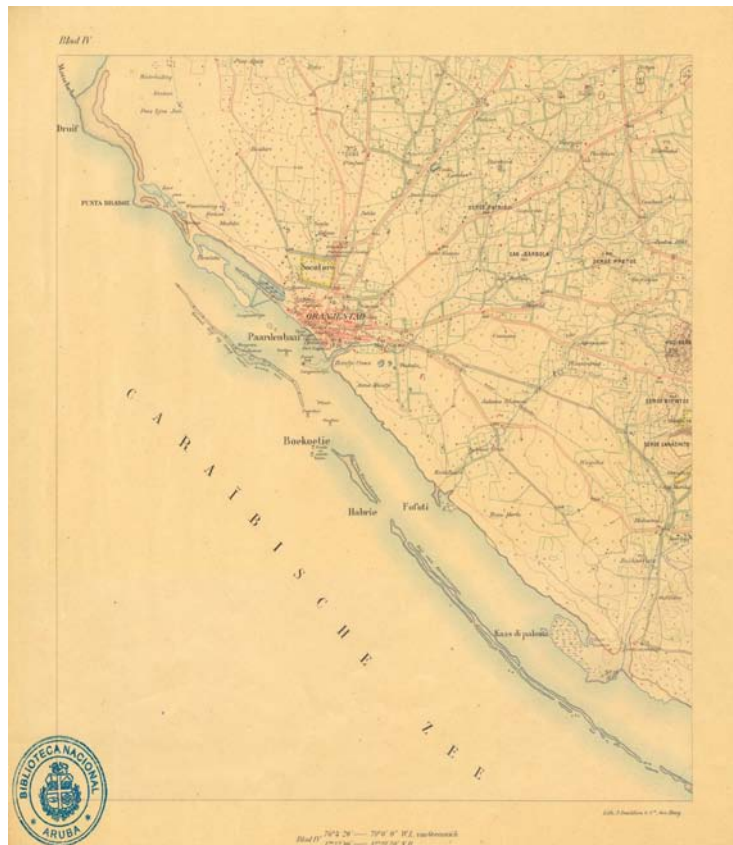
# Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curaçao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak.



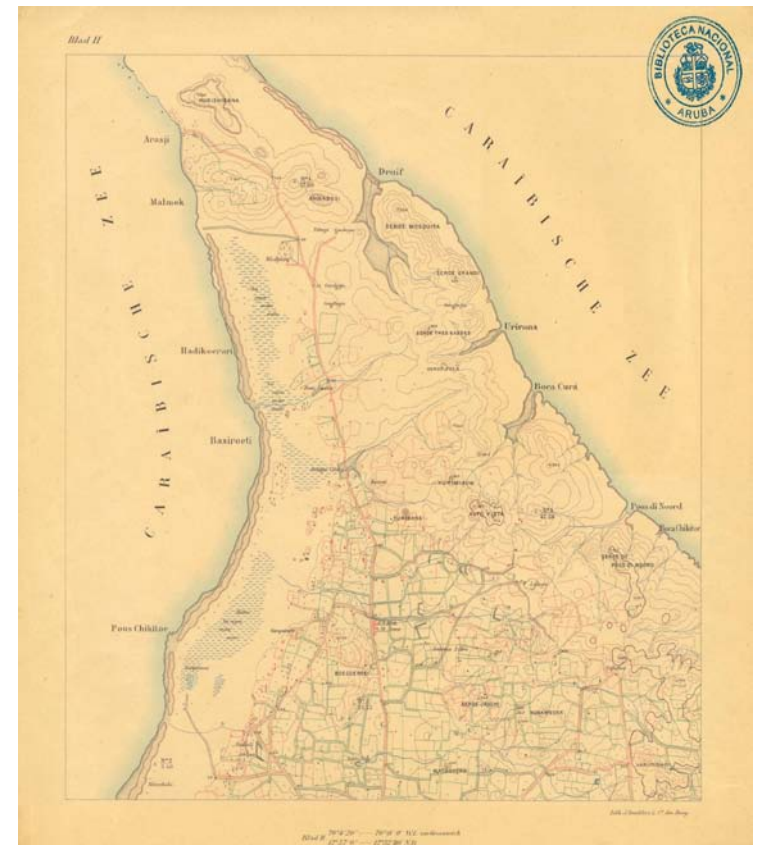
The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed differ-

ent dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curaçao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settle-



ment, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide

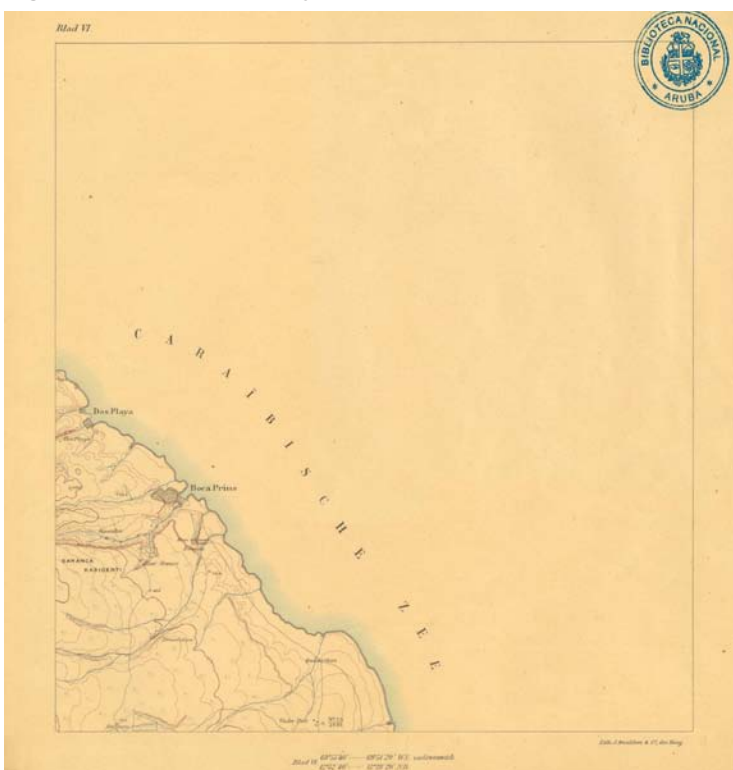
our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock





**CROSSWORD**

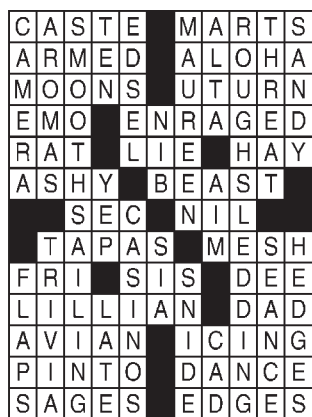
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

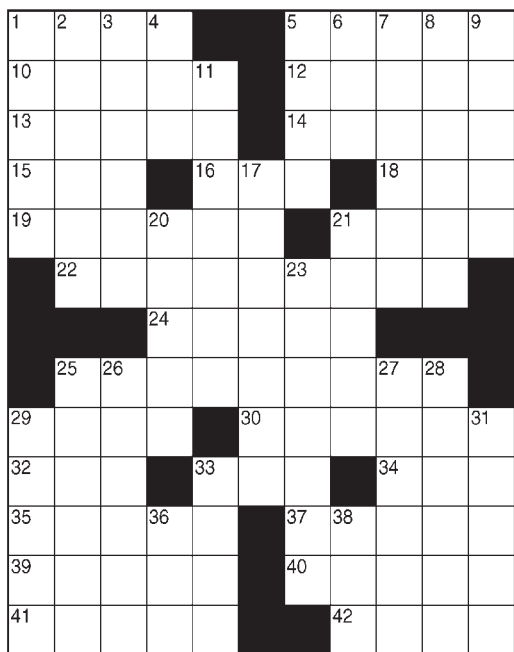
- 41 Garden starters  
1 Umbrella parts  
5 Petty quarrels  
10 Honshu port  
12 Common eye color  
13 Caesar's language  
14 Plain silly  
15 Ignited  
16 Brief drop  
18 Pet perch  
19 Pink shade  
21 Posted  
22 Symbol of life  
24 Intense fear  
25 White-rooted biennial  
29 Green fruit  
30 England invader  
32 Swiss peak  
33 GI-entertaining grp.  
34 Be a snoop  
35 Posts  
37 Racket  
39 Be of one mind  
40 Swagger

**DOWN**

- 1 Bakery buys  
2 Old Testament prophet  
3 Clash makers  
4 Enjoy the slopes  
5 Fleet unit  
6 Piper of myth  
7 Flowery shrub  
8 Lease signer  
9 Was out  
11 Neighbor of Spain  
17 Rounds birth-place  
20 "Picnic" role  
21 Passover meal  
23 Simian subset  
25 Cow chow  
26 Strike caller  
27 Kingdom  
28 St. Paul's  
29 Eastern monks  
31 Moscow denials  
33 Calls on  
36 Was a pioneer  
38 Mel of the Giants



**Yesterday's answer**



5-4

A XYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-4

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

XES QSRU WTOGJ UE DT RUHWW

HJ ULT QHPRU EA OKUHMHUX

OJP UE DT MHDGOJUWX OWHMT

HJ GTNERT. — HJPHGO FOJPLH

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** MOST OF THE TROUBLE IN THE WORLD IS CAUSED BY PEOPLE WANTING TO BE IMPORTANT. — T.S. ELIOT

**Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024**

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Electrical power**



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

**Drinking water**



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

**Supermarket hours**



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

**Safety**



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# AI industry is influencing the world. Mozilla adviser Abeba Birhane is challenging its core values

By MATT O'BRIEN  
AP Technology Writer

"Scaling up" is a catchphrase in the artificial intelligence industry as tech companies rush to improve their AI systems with ever-bigger sets of internet data.

It's also a red flag for Mozilla's Abeba Birhane, an AI expert who for years has challenged the values and practices of her field and the influence it's having on the world.

Her latest research finds that scaling up on online data used to train popular AI image-generator tools is disproportionately resulting in racist outputs, especially against Black men.

Birhane is a senior adviser in AI accountability at the Mozilla Foundation, the nonprofit parent organization of the free software company that runs the Firefox web browser. Raised in Ethiopia and living in Ireland, she's also an adjunct assistant professor at Trinity College Dublin.

Her interview with The Associated Press has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: How did you get started in the AI field?

A: I'm a cognitive scientist by training. Cog sci doesn't have its own department wherever you are studying it.



(Associated Press Illustration/Jenni Sohn)

ing it. So where I studied, it was under computer science. I was placed in a lab full of machine learners. They were doing so much amazing stuff and nobody was paying attention to the data. I found that very amusing and also very interesting because I thought data was one of the most important components to the success of your model. But I found it weird that people don't pay that much attention or time asking, 'What's in my dataset?' That's how I got interested in this space. And then eventually, I started doing audits of large scale datasets.

Q: Can you talk about your work on the ethical founda-

tions of AI?

A: Everybody has a view about what machine learning is about. So machine learners people from the AI community tell you that it doesn't have a value. It's just maths, it's objective, it's neutral and so on. □

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Caya G.F.

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WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000  
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views

### GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$12,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$10,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean front \$21,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

### GOLD SEASON

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## HEALTH

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#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz : Tel.585 8028

#### San Nicolas:

San Nicolas:Tel. 584 5712

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

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Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

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### TRAVEL INFO

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# Automakers hit 'significant storm,' as buyers reject lofty prices at time of huge capital outlays

By TOM KRISHER  
AP Auto Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — Investors are punishing automakers' stocks this week after second-quarter earnings reports exposed industrywide issues of slowing sales and high prices, just as the companies are having to spend huge sums to make new electric and gas vehicles. Each auto company has unique problems, but common to many are growing vehicle stockpiles on dealer lots, requiring increased discounts to sell them to buyers with stressed-out household budgets.

Ford Motor Co., which reported a drop in second-quarter earnings due to electric-vehicle losses and persistently high warranty costs, led the declines. Its shares have fallen 20% this week. But others such as General Motors, Tesla, Stellantis and Nissan, all saw their shares drop about 8% or even more.

Carlos Tavares, CEO of Jeep and Ram maker Stellantis, said a significant auto-industry storm he's been warning about for several years has arrived. "We are in it," he told reporters after releasing disappointing earnings Thursday. "For me,



A line of unsold 2024 F150 and Lightning electric pickup trucks sit at a Ford dealership Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

it's a no brainer that this industry is going to be in turmoil."

Shortly after the coronavirus pandemic spread worldwide in 2020, automakers had to slow their factories due to a global shortage of computer chips. At the time, high-income buyers who couldn't spend money on travel or restaurants started paying above sticker prices for a limited supply of pricey loaded-out vehicles. Automakers used their

limited production to build only expensive stuff, and prices soared nearly 27% from pre-pandemic levels. The trend continued into late last year, with companies and dealerships making big profits with lower-than-normal sales.

But as chip supplies returned, automakers ramped up production, and inventory on U.S. dealer lots grew to around 1.8 million a year ago. Now it's just under 3 million, high but

still a million short of pre-pandemic numbers.

The problem for the industry is that it kept building expensive vehicles loaded with options while most high-income buyers had already bought new vehicles. The remaining buyers now can't afford much of what dealers have in stock because of high prices and interest rates. Now the big profits from pricey trucks and SUVs that paid to develop and build electric ve-

hicles are starting to wane. "It's kind of ridiculous that anyone would have been surprised that this party was going to come to an end," said Sam Abuelsamid, principal mobility analyst for Guidehouse Insights. "There are only so many people that can afford vehicles this expensive, especially when interest rates have remained as high as they have for so long."

The average price of a new vehicle in the U.S. peaked in December at \$48,408, according to data from Edmunds.com. It dropped a little to \$47,616 last month. Discounts, which were minimal or nonexistent for the past few years, rose to an average of \$1,819 per vehicle in June.

As the Federal Reserve raised interest rates, the average new auto loan rate jumped from a low of 4.1% in December of 2021 to 7.3% last month. That boosted the average monthly payment to \$739 per month, with an average borrowing term of nearly six years, according to Edmunds.

The average price of used vehicles soared more than 50% from before the pandemic to a peak of \$31,095 in April of 2022. □

## Spicy dispute over the origins of Flamin' Hot Cheetos winds up in court

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP Business Writer

A court case could soon settle a spicy dispute: Who

invented Flamin' Hot Cheetos?

A former PepsiCo executive is suing the company,

saying it destroyed his career after questioning his claim that he invented the popular flavor of Cheetos snacks.

PepsiCo said Thursday it has no comment on the lawsuit, which was filed July 18 in California Superior Court. According to his lawsuit, Richard Montañez began working for PepsiCo as a janitor at its Frito-Lay plant in Ranch Cucamonga, California, in 1977. Montañez was the son of a Mexican immigrant and grew up in a migrant labor camp.

One day, a machine in Montañez's plant broke down, leaving a batch of unflavored Cheetos. Montañez says he took the

batch home and dusted them with chili powder, trying to replicate the flavor of elote, the popular grilled seasoned corn served in Mexico.

In 1991, Montañez asked for a meeting with PepsiCo CEO Roger Enrico to pitch his spicy Cheetos, confident they would be a hit with the Latino community. Enrico granted the meeting, liked the presentation and directed the company to develop spicy Cheetos, according to the lawsuit.

Montañez said PepsiCo sent him on speaking engagements and actively promoted his story. But in the meantime, Montañez claims the company's re-

search and development department shut him out of its discussions and testing.

PepsiCo introduced Flamin' Hot Cheetos in 1992. Montañez says he continued to develop spicy snacks, like Flamin' Hot Popcorn and Lime and Chili Fritos, and in 2000 he was promoted to a business development manager in Southern California.

Montañez eventually became PepsiCo's vice president of multicultural marketing and sales.

Montañez said demand for speaking engagements was so great that he retired from PepsiCo in 2019 to become a motivational speaker full time. □



Flamin' Hot Cheetos are pictured near the front door of La Azteca Market in South Los Angeles, Aug. 22, 2008.

Associated Press



# Damages to college athletes to range from a few dollars to more than a million under settlement

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**  
AP College Sports Writer

Thousands of former college athletes will be eligible for payments ranging from a few dollars to more than a million under the \$2.78 billion antitrust settlement agreed to by the NCAA and five power conferences, a deal that also paves the way for schools to directly compensate athletes while attempting regulate payments from boosters.

Details of the sprawling plan were filed Friday in federal court in the Northern District of California, a little more than two months after the framework of an agreement was announced. The deal must still be approved by a judge.

The full term sheet includes guidelines on roster caps for individual sports that will replace scholarship limits; how the new financial payments will be monitored and enforced to ensure compliance by schools; how third-party payments to athletes will be regulated; and how nearly \$3 billion in damages will be doled out by the plaintiffs over the next 10 years.

Those payouts will vary drastically and are determined by sport played, when, how long and what conference an athlete competed in. While Division I athletes across all sports will be eligible to collect damages, the majority of damages is expected to go to football and basketball players from power conferences because those leagues and teams generate most of the revenue that comes from billion-dollar media rights contracts.

The deal covers three antitrust cases including the class-action lawsuit known as *House vs. the NCAA* that challenged NCAA compensation rules dating back to 2016.

The plaintiffs claimed NCAA rules denied thousands of athletes the opportunity to earn millions of dollars off the use of their names, images and likenesses.

The NCAA lifted its ban on



Wisconsin's Traevon Jackson dribbles past the NCAA logo during practice at the NCAA men's college basketball tournament March 26, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

athletes earning money off their fame through endorsement and sponsorship deals in 2021.

The agreement does not settle the issue of whether college athletes should be deemed employees. The NCAA and college sports leaders continue to plead for help from Congress in the form of a federal law that would supersede state laws and allow the association and conferences to self govern without fear of future antitrust litigation.

"This settlement is an important step forward for student-athletes and college sports, but it does not address every challenge," the commissioners of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, Southeastern Conference and NCAA President Charlie Baker said in a joint statement.

"The need for federal legislation to provide solutions remains. If Congress does not act, the progress reached through the settlement could be significantly mitigated by state laws and continued litigation."

While that help still seems unlikely to come soon especially with a presidential election months away college sports leaders hope

the settlement can provide some certainty for schools and finally stem the constant legal attacks on its antiquated model of amateurism.

**Paying athletes**

The NCAA and conferences have agreed to amend their rules to permit a landmark compensation system that allows schools to share up to about \$21 million in athletic revenues with their athletes annually, starting in 2025.

That number is derived from taking 22% of the average revenue generated through media rights contracts, tickets and other sources by power conference schools. The agreement will create an audit system that allows plaintiffs to monitor athletic revenue, which is expected to rise in the coming years as new media rights agreements kick in for conferences and the College Football Playoff.

Athletes are projected to receive \$1.5 billion-\$2 billion annually.

All athletes will be eligible to receive the new financial benefits, but each school will be permitted to determine how they want to divvy up the money among sports. How exactly Title IX

gender equity rules apply is still unclear and will require federal clarification. How schools comply with Title IX will be the responsibility of each institution.

**Scholarships and rosters**

Replacing scholarship limits with roster caps could mean even more athletic scholarship opportunities in Division I.

Most notably, major college football teams will now be permitted to have 105 player on scholarship instead of the current 85, though schools will no longer be required to give full scholarships to every football player.

Partial scholarships have been used in some sports for years, but will now be permitted in all.

The roster caps for baseball (34), softball (25) and volleyball (18) will also allow for a significant jump in the number of scholarships schools can provide in those sports, though schools will not be required to meet the cap.

NIL deals and oversight  
NCAA rules have been tweaked recently to allow schools to be more involved in providing NIL opportunities for college athletes, but they will still be allowed to strike deals with third parties.

A new voluntary reporting system for deals that surpass \$600 is scheduled to start next month. The NCAA is creating a public database that it hopes will allow athletes to assess fair market value.

Booster-funded NIL collectives have become a common way athletes are compensated, but now those deals will be subject to review through an arbitration process.

**Damage payments**

The plaintiffs in the House case are responsible for doling out damages. Included in Friday's filing was a chart breaking down the categories of eligible athletes along with four different types of payouts they could be in line to receive.

According to the plaintiffs, about 19,000 power conference football players and men's basketball players will be in line to receive an average of \$91,000, with payments ranging from \$15,000 to \$280,000 just for what is referred to as broadcast name, image and likeness.

Some of those same athletes could also be in line for tens of thousands of dollars more related to lost opportunities to earn NIL money while in college and what is deemed by the plaintiffs as pay-for-play. Plaintiffs' lawyers say a few athletes will be eligible to receive upward of \$1 million.

**Next steps**

Plaintiffs' attorneys say they will file a motion for preliminary approval and if granted a public website will go up in about two months where former college athletes can determine how much they are eligible to receive.

Still, the settlement is months away from final approval. There will be an opportunity for athletes who are members of the plaintiffs' class to object to the settlement and ask to be excluded. Already one school, Houston Christian, has objected though the judge denied its request to intervene. □



# Canada women's soccer coach suspended over drone scandal, which may be part of 'systemic' issues

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Soccer Writer

Canada women's soccer coach Bev Priestman was suspended and removed from the team for the Paris Olympics in the wake of a drone-spying scandal Friday, and the head of Canada Soccer said he was investigating a potential "systemic ethical shortcoming."

Kevin Blue, Canada Soccer's CEO and general secretary, emphasized that the players were not involved in any unethical behavior at the Paris Games. The team is currently training in Saint-Etienne.

"At the moment we are trying to directly address what appears to look like it could be a systemic ethical shortcoming, in a way that's frankly, unfortunately painful right now, but is turning out to be a necessary part of the rehabilitation process," Blue said.

Priestman's future with defending champion Canada is "pending the outcome of our review of this matter entirely," Blue said.

"Upon gathering more information from that review, that will be an additional opportunity to see what steps additionally need to be taken, if any," Blue said.

Earlier in the day, Canadian Olympic Committee chief



Coach Beverly Priestman of Canada takes photos on the pitch at Geoffroy-Guichard Stadium ahead of the 2024 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in Saint-Etienne, France. Canada is scheduled to play New Zealand on Thursday, July 25.

executive David Shoemaker told reporters in Paris that Priestman was likely aware that drones were used to spy on New Zealand's practices. Priestman has denied the allegations.

Blue also said he learned of a possible drone incident involving the men's national team at the recent Copa America.

He said it was his understanding that it did not have an

impact on the competitive integrity of the competition but would not offer details. Asked whether men's coach Jesse Marsch was aware of possible drone usage at that tournament that ended earlier this month in the United States, Blue said Marsch was aware after the fact and has "denounced it as a practice to his staff." Canada reached the Copa semifinals, falling 2-0 to Argentina.

Canada's camp was thrown into disarray earlier this week after two team staffers were sent home for allegedly using a drone to spy on a New Zealand practice. Priestman stepped aside for the team's Olympic opener a 2-1 victory over New Zealand and interim coach Andy Spence led the team. Hours after the match, the COC announced Priestman was removed for the rest of

Associated Press

the tournament and that Canada Soccer was conducting an independent review.

FIFA soccer's world governing body and the International Olympic Committee were also investigating.

Blue said that after the opener he was made aware of new information related to the drone scandal, which led to Priestman's suspension.

"They gave me reasons to think further about the potential that this behavior was systemic," Blue said. "And while we are certainly reserving judgement until the conclusion of our review, the concrete information I received yesterday made me consider the possibility, at least, that this matter is more extensive." Federation officials met with the players Friday morning.

Canada next plays host France on Sunday, also in Saint-Etienne.

Christine Sinclair, captain of Canada's gold medal-winning team at the Tokyo Olympics, wrote on social media that it was "unfortunate that the players of our national team have had to play through condemnable actions by some of their staff as they attempt to defend our gold medal. Actions players have no control over." □

# Veteran guard Russell Westbrook agrees to 2-year deal with Denver Nuggets, AP source says

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Russell Westbrook has agreed to a two-year contract with the Denver Nuggets, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Friday.

The deal provides Denver with a much-needed backup point guard for oft-injured star Jamal Murray and gives the 35-year-old veteran and nine-time All-Star a chance to play with a championship contender that is one year removed from its first NBA title.

Westbrook, 35, will make the minimum salary of \$3,303,711 next season with

a minimum-salary player option in 2025-26 worth \$3,468,960, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the deal that brings a former MVP to a team that lacked depth in the playoffs this summer. Nikola Jokic endorsed the pursuit of Westbrook after the Nuggets were eliminated by Minnesota in the second round of the playoffs when their lack of depth wore them down during a seven-game series with the jumbo-sized Timberwolves and their deep rotation. Westbrook averaged a career-low 11.1 points per game while mostly coming

off the bench last season for the Los Angeles Clippers, who were bounced by Dallas in the first round of the playoffs.

Westbrook also averaged 5 rebounds and 4.5 assists in a career-low 22.5 minutes per game last season.

The Utah Jazz acquired Westbrook from the Clippers last week in a sign-and-trade deal for point guard Kris Dunn. The Jazz made the move with the anticipation they would buy out Westbrook's contract so he could sign with the Nuggets, and they waived him on Saturday.

The Nuggets were in dire need of guard depth af-

ter parting with veterans and Reggie Jackson this offseason. □



Los Angeles Clippers guard Russell Westbrook moves up the court during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, April 7, 2024, in Los Angeles.

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